

Appl. No : 09/262,000
Amdt. dated : 01/26/04
Reply to Office Action of 12/02/03

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner Jeff B. Vockrodt is thanked for thoroughly reviewing the subject application. Examiner is also thanked for allowing claims 8, 14-16, 18-23 and 38.

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, is respectfully requested based on the following.

The rejection of claim 32 is considered moot because claim 32 has been cancelled.

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In light of the foregoing response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong (US 6,027,999) in view of Moore (US Patent 6,124,912) and Shigeta (US Patent 6,266,121) is respectfully requested based on the following.

The rejection of claim 39 is considered moot because claim 32 has been cancelled. Claims 25-28, as dependent claims to claim 39, have also been cancelled.

In light of the foregoing response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong (US 6,027,999) in view of Moore (US Patent 6,124,912) and Shigeta (US Patent 6,266,121), be withdrawn.

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Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 30-32 and 40 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong (US 6,027,999) in view of Moore (US Patent 6,124,912) and Katagiri (US 4,763,995) and Hirakata (US 6,449,024) is respectfully requested based on the following.

The rejection of claim 40 is considered moot because claim 32 has been cancelled. Claims 30-32, as dependent claims to claim 40, have also been cancelled, making the rejection of claims 30-32 moot.

In light of the foregoing response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 30-32 and 40 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong (US 6,027,999) in view of Moore (US Patent 6,124,912) and Katagiri (US 4,763,995) and Hirakata (US 6,449,024), be withdrawn.

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Other Considerations

No new independent or dependent claims have been written as a result of this office action, no new charges are therefore incurred due to this office action.

It is requested that, should Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, to call the undersigned Attorney at the Examiner's convenience at 845-452-5863 in order to overcome any problems preventing allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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